

Meet Referee and Officials

Officials are an important part of all swim meets. In PVS we are very lucky to have so many hard working and dedicated Officials, many of whom no longer have children swimming in PVS. Each year it is important for every club to encourage parents to become certified Officials. PVS holds a number of clinics each fall to train new Stroke & Turn Officials, Hy-Tek and CTS operators as well as offer Starter and Referee training. There are a number of resources for clubs and parents to reach out to, to find more information on becoming an official. Every PVS team, whether they host meets or not, are strongly encouraged to have certified officials attached to their team. (Add link to someone to contact regarding Official's training)

The first step to becoming an Official is to become certified as a Stroke and Turn.

The duties of a **Stroke & Turn** are:

- To ensure that the rules relating to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed; ensure that, when turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the turn and finish rules applicable to the stroke used; shall report any violations to the Referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, lane number and infraction observed.

After an individual has been a certified S & T for at least one year can train to become a Starter.

The duties of a **Starter** are:

- Stands on the side of the pool within approximately five meters of the starting end of the pool and , upon signal from the Referee, shall assume control of the swimmers until a fair start has been achieved; notifies swimmers of the event and heat to be swum if o announcer is used or the Referee requests it; records a visual order of finish for each heat.

The Official's Committee meets annually to choose individuals and invite them to train as Referee. It is required that all PVS meet referees become certified in all positions including CTS and Hy-Tek operations. There are increased responsibilities to being a Meet Ref, Deck Ref and Admin Ref, all of which can be separated or combined depending on the type and duration of the meet.

Once the meet has begun the Meet Referee has overall responsibility for the conduct of the meet. He or she will work with the Meet Director prior to the meet to review the meet announcement, psych sheet and estimated timelines and assist in the decision making process if there are pre-meet issues to be worked out. The Meet Referee will continue to communicate with the Meet Director throughout the meet and together solve problems as they arise.

The primary responsibilities of the **Referee**: (See following pages for more detailed description of each of the Referee positions)

- Shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed.

Other positions at a meet:

- **Chief Judge** – assigns and supervises the activities of all stroke, turn, place and take-off judges and may report their decisions to the Referee; takes charge of equipment and forms used by officials (radios, lap counters, relay take-off slips, etc).
- **Timing Equipment Operator (CTS)** – is responsible for the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment, including the electronic starting system and scoreboard (if used), and shall advise the Referee or Administrative Official of any system problems that might affect the accuracy of times or whenever the touchpad is observed to have failed to record the finish when the swimmer completed the race. The timing console should be placed so that the operator is able to observe the finish of each race.
- **Results Computer (Hy-Tek Operator)** – is primarily responsible for compiling the results from the timing system in the computer software system (Hy-Tek), adjusting times in accordance with the Timing Judge/Meet or Admin Referee, printing results for each event. Other duties may include, on deck seeding of events (positive check-in event), late or deck meet entries, printing meet programs, lane timer sheets and other reports as assigned by the Meet Referee.
- **Marshal (also under meet volunteers)** – shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue; has full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and with the concurrence of the Referee, to remove or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

*Descriptions of the different positions are abbreviated and taken from the USA Swimming Rule Book. For a full description of the duties of the various positions please refer to the current USA Swimming Rulebook.